

Applicant Review Panel

votersfirstact@auditor.ca.gov.

Recommendation for Clifford W. Lazar application ID 20932

I heartily recommend my friend Clifford W. Lazar for the California Reapportionment Commission. He is just the kind of person the commission needs as it begins its pioneering work in reforming the reapportionment process. I can say this with confidence. In addition to knowing him for many years, I have covered reapportionment as a journalist. I was a legislative reporter and political writer for the Associated Press in Sacramento, reporting on the partisan reapportionment work of two masters of the art, the late Jesse Unruh and Phil Burton. I was a political reporter, columnist and city editor for the Los Angeles Times, concerned with various aspects of reapportionment in each Times job. Finally, I did extensive research on reapportionment for my biography of Unruh.

I have known Cliff since the early 1980s when he and my wife Nancy were colleagues at the Atlantic Richfield Co. He volunteered for the ARCO speakers program, which was coordinated by Nancy. In that capacity, Cliff spoke to diverse groups in Southern California. Among these groups were service clubs, property owner organizations and college students. These speaking engagements gave him a broad knowledge of the state and its problems.

That knowledge, and his experience in the oil industry, helped him, as a supporter of the coastal conservation movement, to serve as an honest broker in the long negotiations between the Sierra Club and the oil industry which were crucial in the development of our present coastal plan. Such a skill is essential on a body such as the reapportionment commission

Cliff has the computer skills essential for development of a non-partisan reapportionment plan. Computers and data were essential parts of his work for ARCO. And his ability to use computer generated material—an art then in its infancy—was put to use in his drawing of the reapportionment map in 1970.

Cliff is a person of the highest ethical standards. I know something of the importance of this. After retiring from the Times, I served a five-year term on the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission. We wrote and enforced ethical rules for the city, as well as enforcing campaign laws. From our many long conversations

about politics—and life—I know Cliff will conduct himself in a way that will bring honor and respect to the new reapportionment commission.

All this experience shows Cliff will be a strong member of a commission that will have a diverse and intelligent membership. He will be able to work with the other commissioners and offer leadership to the staff.

For these reasons, I believe Clifford Lazar would be a great commissioner. He knows that California and the nation will be watching the work of the commission. It could set a pattern for other states. Cliff is up to the demands of this important position and would serve with skill and enthusiasm.

Bill Boyarsky